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OCT 27 2005

Yehouda Harpaz
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26 Oct 2005

Re: Application No. 10/031,776 - resubmission of supplemental appeal brief.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached three copies of a new version of the supplemental appeal brief, in response to the notification of non-compliance with 37 CFR 41.37 which was sent on 10/17/2005.

I have made the following corrections:

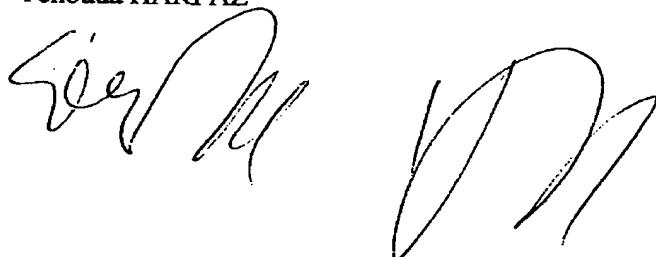
- 1) Added an *Evidence* appendix.
- 2) Added a *Related proceedings* Appendix.
- 3) Added a reference to the *Evidence* appendix in the text itself where relevant.

Otherwise, the text is identical to the previous supplemental appeal brief which filed 1 Aug 2005.

I believe I have corrected all the points that were raised in the notification.

Thanks,

Yehouda HARPAZ



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26 Oct 2005

Re: Application No. 10/031,776 - supplementary appeal brief

1) *Party of interest:* Yehouda Harpaz (sole inventor).

2) *Related appeals and interferences:* There are no related appeals or interferences.

3) *Status of claims:* Claim 1 - Rejected.

Claims 2-7 - cancelled.

The appeal is against the rejection of Claim 1.

4) *Status of Amendments:* There are no amendments subsequent to final rejection.

5) *Summary of claimed subject matter:*

Claim 1: The means in Claim 1 is an electronic board which is played by touching points, with a novel behaviour. The behaviour is that, except playing in turns, the sole rule is that a point is a legal move if its 'visibility' for the player is above or equal to some fixed number. The 'visibility' of a point is determined by the board by checking in turn each of a predefined set of imaginary straight lines emanating from the point. If the line does not pass through any illuminated point, it is assigned a value of 0. Otherwise the line is assigned a value of 1 if the closest illuminated point that it passes through is illuminated in the colour of the player, or -1 if it is in the opponent's colour. The sum of the values of the lines is the 'visibility' of the point for the player. The game ends when neither of the players has a legal move, and the player with more points of his/her colour wins.

The board itself is described shortly in the first paragraph of page 2 (lines 1-18), and the conceptual structure of the board is shown in abstract in Figure 1. A more detailed description is given in page 5, lines 8-38, and Figure 2 gives more details of the construction of the board.

The behaviour of the board, which is the main novelty of the claim, is described shortly in page 2, second paragraph (lines 21-31). It is then discussed in length in the last three lines of page 3 and all of page 4. It is illustrated in Figures 4 and 5, but the text on page 4 must be consulted to understand the figures.

The function of the construction in Claim 1 is to produce a novel and innovative game that is simple to play but has a considerable strategic depth, and therefore is a very interesting game. This is discussed in the last paragraph page 5 (line 37-47). This game cannot be realistically played without the construction of claim 1.

6) *Grounds for rejection:*

Double patenting: Claim 1 was rejected under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-4 of U.S. Patent 6,568,683. This is discussed in section 7.b below.

Provisional Obvious type double patenting: Claim 1 was provisionally rejected under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over the claims of

copending applications 10/031890 and 10/031942. This is discussed in section 7.c below.

Claim rejections - 35 USC 102: Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Golad 6,231,441. Discussed in 7.d below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC 103: Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blumberg et al. (5,417,425) in view of Othello (Shadow125 Java Applet). Discussed in 7.e below.

7) *Argument:*

(a) **Novelty and non-obviousness of Claim 1**

(a.1) As I wrote in (c.5) in the appeal brief, the idea that is expressed in lines 14-22 of Claim 1 of the current application (starting with "when a player touches a point..."), is a combination of the following elements:

- (1) Look at distant points beyond unilluminated points, rather than only illuminated neighbours.
- (2) Use the first illuminated point that is encountered to define the value for a direction (1 for player's colour, -1 for the other colour).
- (3) Sum the values in all directions, rather than just checking if any of the directions fulfils some condition.
- (4) Use the result to decide if a move is legal.
- (5) Use this evaluation as the sole determination of the behaviour of the board during the game, rather than make the evaluation just part of the rules of the game.

(a.2) Element (4) is the only element that can be found in the documents that were found by the ISR and the search in the USPTO, except my own applications. In my first application, (application GB 9907163.1) elements (3) and (4) appear, but not in a combination (they appear in separate games). Element (5) is completely new in the priority document of the current application (GB 9919551), and it is an important innovation, because with simple behaviour it generates a game with considerable strategic depth. It may be possible to dig out documents that show one of elements (1) (2) or (3) on its own, but I am not aware of such documents, and searches don't find them. I am sure that no combination of any two of elements (1)-(4) appears in any prior document. Thus even each element of (1),(2) or (3) on its own is not that obvious, combining any pair of elements (1)-(4) together is quite non-obvious, combining all of them together is very non-obvious, and combining them with element (5) is very very non-obvious.

(a.3) The combination of all these elements together generates a behaviour that is radically different from anything that have been published until now in any context, including all the documents that were cited by the examiner or in the international search report (excluding my other applications which may mention it, but has the same or later priority date). This is true not only in the context of electronic boards, but also video/computer games and classical games. This can be verified by scanning the catalogues of toys and games companies, for example:

<http://www.hasbro.com/games/>

or an online directory of board-games, for example:

http://directory.google.com/Top/Games/Board_Games/

<http://www.board-games-directory.com>

http://dmoz.org/Shopping/Toys_and_Games/Games/Board_Games/New/

(Note that the idea does appear in my domain, <http://maldoo.com>)

(a.4) Hence the combination of the elements which are listed above in (a.1), as presented in

Claim 1, is novel and inventive over anything that has been published earlier.

(b) Double Patenting

(b.1) Rejection for double patenting with respect to Harpaz 6,568,683: To overcome the rejection, I have submitted a terminal disclaimer with respect to 6,568,683 (p. 6 of this brief). I explain here why I don't actually agree with the rejection anyway, but this can be ignored because of the terminal disclaimer.

(b.2) Harpaz 6,568,683 claims only elements (2) and (3) of the elements that are listed in (a.1) above. Therefore elements (1), (4) and (5) (the main novelty) are not claimed in 6,568,683, and hence the current application is novel and non-obvious over the claims of Harpaz 6,568,683.

(b.3) The examiner makes 6,568,683 looks closer to the current application by mis-representing what 6,568,683 says. In the last line of p.3 and first line of p.4 he says about 6,568,683:

“... the game manager checks for each point the illumination state of the point and of a pattern of points around to insure to insure appropriate movement of a player...

(b.4) The last part is simply wrong. The check in 6,568,683 is to decide what will be the state of the point in the next period of time, and it happens each short period of time, without any relation to any player's action (6,568,683, Claim 1, column 8, lines 12-16). As explained in 6,568,683 column 3, lines 53-58, this change each period of time (“generation”) is a major part of the innovation in 6,568,683.

(c) Provisional Obvious type double patenting

(c.1) Provisional rejections for double patenting with respect to the copending applications 10/031890 and 10/031942: Neither of 10/031890 nor 10/031942 claims *any* of the elements listed in (a.1) above. Therefore the current application is non-obvious over both of them. The examiner ignores these elements completely.

(d) Claim rejections - 35 USC 102

(d.1) Rejection of Claim 1 as being anticipated by Golad 6,231,441 (page 6): This rejection is done by attributing to Golad text that it does not contain, and ignoring some of the elements that were listed in (a.1).

(d.2) In his description of the board which is described in Golad 6,231,441, the examiner includes this statement (p.6, lines 3-5 from the bottom, my italics):

“... and a game manager evaluating legal moves by each player by *checking in turn each of a pre-defined set of imaginary straight lines emanating from the point* to evaluate a correct and incorrect move, ..”

(d.3) The part in italics is a mis-representation of Golad 6,231,441, because there is nothing in 6,231,441 that can be interpreted this way. This part is actually lifted, almost *verbatim*, from Claim 1 of the current application.

(d.4) The examiner explains this mis-representation in the following text (p.6, last two lines and p.7 top):

“.., in which the examiner interprets to be in the computer informing a player on a incorrect move by flashing the correct playing areas on the grid point in straight lines, which is equivalent to applicant's game manager evaluating legal or illegal moves by a player (column 3, line 54 - column 4, line 9).”

(d.5) I did not understand this explanation, and I don't think it is a coherent English text, but it clearly does not contain anything to do with “checking in turn each of a pre-defined set of imaginary straight lines”. The text in 6,231,441 that the examiner refers to (column 3, line 54 - column 4, line 9) also does not contain anything that may be interpreted this way. In fact, in the example in 6,231,441 the evaluation is whether the move “traps” or borders an occupied area (column 4, lines 14-17).

(d.6) Of the elements listed above in (a.1), only element (4) is mentioned (in any way) by Golad 6,231,441, and there is nothing in 6,231,441 that could be interpreted as any of the elements (1), (2), (3) and (5). Therefore 6,231,441 clearly doesn't anticipate Claim 1. The examiner reached his conclusion because he mis-represented 6,231,441 to have element (1) and (3) as shown above in (d.2) and (d.3), and ignored elements (2) and (5) altogether.

(e) Claim Rejections - 35 USC 103

(e.1) Rejection of Claim 1 as being unpatentable over Blumberg et al (5,417,425) in view of Othello (p.7): Of the elements that were listed above in (a.1), only element (4) appears in Othello, and none of the elements appear in Blumberg et al. Thus Blumberg et al in view Othello still does not present elements (1), (2), (3) and (5). As discussed above in paragraphs (a.2) - (a.4), these elements give a novel and non-obvious combination.

(e.2) The examiner gives the impression that Blumberg et al present these elements by attributing to Blumberg et al text that is actually from the current application. On p.8, line 3, the examiner writes:

“Blumberg does expressly disclose the following:

When a player touches a point, the games manager checks if it is a legal move, and if it is“

(indented paragraph continues for around half a page)

(e.3) All the indented paragraph is not taken from Blumberg et al at all. In fact it is simply the second half of Claim 1 of the current application. There is nothing in Blumberg et al that can be claimed to say what is said in this paragraph, by any stretch of imagination. Thus the examiner makes the current application obvious with respect to Blumberg et al by attributing to Blumberg et al the most innovative part of claim 1 of the current application. Without the false attribution, Blumberg et al in view of Othello is still very very far from the behaviour that is disclosed in Claim 1, because together they contain only element (4).

f) Informal Claim Objections: In the claims in the appendix, I removed italicization and added spaces between the lines and indentation. The text is identical to the previous version.

Yehouda Harpaz
Customer number: 33593

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8. Appendix - Claims

1 (original) An electronic board comprising:

a grid of grid points on a flat surface, where each grid point is a visible element which is capable of detecting when it is pressed, and can be illuminated in two different colours, allocated to respective players, by an illumination source inside or below the surface; and a character display ; and

a game manager made of

a CPU and memory, connected electronically to the grid points and illumination sources such that it has complete control on which grid point is illuminated and in what colour, and it is notified whenever any of the grid points is pressed, and a computer program which is executed by the CPU, which manages a one or more games, of which at least one game is played according to these rules:

when a player touches a point, the games manager checks if it is a legal move, and if it is switches the point to the player's colour;

to evaluate if a point is a legal move, the games manager checks in turn each of a pre-defined set of imaginary straight lines emanating from the point, assigning a value of 0 to each of these lines that does not pass through an illuminated point, a value of 1 if the closest illuminated point that it passes through is illuminated with the colour of the player, and -1 if it is in the opponent's colour, and then compares the sum of the values of all the lines to a fixed number, and if the sum is larger or equal the point is a legal move for the player;

the games manager declares as winner the player that has more points of their colour in the end of the game.

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9. Appendix - Evidence

Below is a copy of a terminal disclaimer with respect to Harpaz 6,568,683. There are no other relevant evidence.

3714 ✓

 <p>PTO/SB/62 (02-04) Approved for use through 07/31/2008. GSA FARS/FEAR U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE</p> <p>TRADE TERMINAL DISCLAIMER TO OBLVIAE A DOUBLE PATENTING REJECTION OVER A "PRIOR" PATENT</p>	
<p>In re Application of:</p> <p>Application No.: 10/031,776</p> <p>Filed: 01/23/2002</p> <p>For: Games Grid Board</p> <p>The owner, <u>Yehouda HARPAZ</u>, of <u>100</u> percent interest in the instant application hereby disclaims, except as provided below, the terminal part of the statutory term of any patent granted on the instant application which would extend beyond the expiration date of the full statutory term prior patent No. <u>6,568,683</u> as the term of said prior patent is defined in 35 U.S.C. 164 and 173, and as the term of said prior patent is presently shortened by any terminal disclaimer. The owner hereby agrees that any patent so granted on the instant application shall be enforceable only for and during such period that it and the prior patent are commonly owned. This agreement runs with any patent granted on the instant application and is binding upon the grantee, its successors or assigns.</p> <p>In making the above disclaimer, the owner does not disclaim the terminal part of the term of any patent granted on the instant application that would extend to the expiration date of the full statutory term as defined in 35 U.S.C. 164 and 173 of the prior patent, "as the term of said prior patent is presently shortened by any terminal disclaimer," in the event that said prior patent later expires for failure to pay a maintenance fee;</p> <p>is held unenforceable;</p> <p>is found invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction;</p> <p>is statutorily disclaimed in whole or terminally disclaimed under 37 CFR 1.321;</p> <p>has all claims canceled by a reexamination certificate;</p> <p>is reissued; or</p> <p>is in any manner terminated prior to the expiration of its full statutory term as presently shortened by any terminal disclaimer.</p> <p>Check either box 1 or 2 below, if appropriate.</p> <p>1. <input type="checkbox"/> For submissions on behalf of a business/organization (e.g., corporation, partnership, university, government agency, etc.), the undersigned is empowered to act on behalf of the business/organization.</p> <p>I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true, and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that wilful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such wilful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.</p> <p>2. <input type="checkbox"/> The undersigned is an attorney or agent of record. Reg. No. _____</p> <p><i>Gregory J. Harpa</i> <i>1/27</i> <i>08/05/2005</i> Signature _____ Date _____</p> <p>08/15/2005 10031776 <i>Yehouda HARPAZ</i> Typed or printed name</p> <p>01 FCI:284 65.00 0P <i>+44 1223 513655</i> Telephone Number</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Terminal disclaimer fee under 37 CFR 1.20(d) included.</p> <p>WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.</p> <p>*Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) is required if terminal disclaimer is signed by the assignee (owner). Form PTO/SB/66 may be used for making this certification. See MPEP § 324.</p> <p><small>THE collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.321. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is guaranteed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.</small></p>	

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

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10. *Appendix - Related proceedings*

Not applicable.

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26 Oct 2005

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2) *Related appeals and interferences:* There are no related appeals or interferences.

3) *Status of claims:* Claim 1 - Rejected.

Claims 2-7 - cancelled.

The appeal is against the rejection of Claim 1.

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Claim 1: The means in Claim 1 is an electronic board which is played by touching points, with a novel behaviour. The behaviour is that, except playing in turns, the sole rule is that a point is a legal move if its 'visibility' for the player is above or equal to some fixed number. The 'visibility' of a point is determined by the board by checking in turn each of a predefined set of imaginary straight lines emanating from the point. If the line does not pass through any illuminated point, it is assigned a value of 0. Otherwise the line is assigned a value of 1 if the closest illuminated point that it passes through is illuminated in the colour of the player, or -1 if it is in the opponent's colour. The sum of the values of the lines is the 'visibility' of the point for the player. The game ends when neither of the players has a legal move, and the player with more points of his/her colour wins.

The board itself is described shortly in the first paragraph of page 2 (lines 1-18), and the conceptual structure of the board is shown in abstract in Figure 1. A more detailed description is given in page 5, lines 8-38, and Figure 2 gives more details of the construction of the board.

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6) *Grounds for rejection:*

Double patenting: Claim 1 was rejected under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-4 of U.S. Patent 6,568,683. This is discussed in section 7.b below.

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7) *Argument:*

(a) **Novelty and non-obviousness of Claim 1**

(a.1) As I wrote in (c.5) in the appeal brief, the idea that is expressed in lines 14-22 of Claim 1 of the current application (starting with “when a player touches a point...”), is a combination of the following elements:

- (1) Look at distant points beyond unilluminated points, rather than only illuminated neighbours.
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- (3) Sum the values in all directions, rather than just checking if any of the directions fulfils some condition.
- (4) Use the result to decide if a move is legal.
- (5) Use this evaluation as the sole determination of the behaviour of the board during the game, rather than make the evaluation just part of the rules of the game.

(a.2) Element (4) is the only element that can be found in the documents that were found by the ISR and the search in the USPTO, except my own applications. In my first application, (application GB 9907163.1) elements (3) and (4) appear, but not in a combination (they appear in separate games). Element (5) is completely new in the priority document of the current application (GB 9919551), and it is an important innovation, because with simple behaviour it generates a game with considerable strategic depth. It may be possible to dig out documents that show one of elements (1) (2) or (3) on its own, but I am not aware of such documents, and searches don’t find them. I am sure that no combination of any two of elements (1)-(4) appears in any prior document. Thus even each element of (1),(2) or (3) on its own is not that obvious, combining any pair of elements (1)-(4) together is quite non-obvious, combining all of them together is very non-obvious, and combining them with element (5) is very very non-obvious.

(a.3) The combination of all these elements together generates a behaviour that is radically different from anything that have been published until now in any context, including all the documents that were cited by the examiner or in the international search report (excluding my other applications which may mention it, but has the same or later priority date). This is true not only in the context of electronic boards, but also video/computer games and classical games. This can be verified by scanning the catalogues of toys and games companies, for example:

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(Note that the idea does appear in my domain, <http://maldoo.com>)

(a.4) Hence the combination of the elements which are listed above in (a.1), as presented in

Claim 1, is novel and inventive over anything that has been published earlier.

(b) Double Patenting

(b.1) Rejection for double patenting with respect to Harpaz 6,568,683: To overcome the rejection, I have submitted a terminal disclaimer with respect to 6,568,683 (p. 6 of this brief). I explain here why I don't actually agree with the rejection anyway, but this can be ignored because of the terminal disclaimer.

(b.2) Harpaz 6,568,683 claims only elements (2) and (3) of the elements that are listed in (a.1) above. Therefore elements (1), (4) and (5) (the main novelty) are not claimed in 6,568,683, and hence the current application is novel and non-obvious over the claims of Harpaz 6,568,683.

(b.3) The examiner makes 6,568,683 looks closer to the current application by mis-representing what 6,568,683 says. In the last line of p.3 and first line of p.4 he says about 6,568,683:

“... the game manager checks for each point the illumination state of the point and of a pattern of points around to insure to insure appropriate movement of a player...

(b.4) The last part is simply wrong. The check in 6,568,683 is to decide what will be the state of the point in the next period of time, and it happens each short period of time, without any relation to any player's action (6,568,683, Claim 1, column 8, lines 12-16). As explained in 6,568,683 column 3, lines 53-58, this change each period of time (“generation”) is a major part of the innovation in 6,568,683.

(c) Provisional Obvious type double patenting

(c.1) Provisional rejections for double patenting with respect to the copending applications 10/031890 and 10/031942: Neither of 10/031890 nor 10/031942 claims *any* of the elements listed in (a.1) above. Therefore the current application is non-obvious over both of them. The examiner ignores these elements completely.

(d) Claim rejections - 35 USC 102

(d.1) Rejection of Claim 1 as being anticipated by Golad 6,231,441 (page 6): This rejection is done by attributing to Golad text that it does not contain, and ignoring some of the elements that were listed in (a.1).

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“... and a game manager evaluating legal moves by each player by *checking in turn each of a pre-defined set of imaginary straight lines emanating from the point* to evaluate a correct and incorrect move, ...”

(d.3) The part in italics is a mis-representation of Golad 6,231,441, because there is nothing in 6,231,441 that can be interpreted this way. This part is actually lifted, almost *verbatim*, from Claim 1 of the current application.

(d.4) The examiner explains this mis-representation in the following text (p.6, last two lines and p.7 top):

“.., in which the examiner interprets to be in the computer informing a player on a incorrect move by flashing the correct playing areas on the grid point in straight lines, which is equivalent to applicant’s game manager evaluating legal or illegal moves by a player (column 3, line 54 - column 4, line 9).”

(d.5) I did not understand this explanation, and I don’t think it is a coherent English text, but it clearly does not contain anything to do with “checking in turn each of a pre-defined set of imaginary straight lines”. The text in 6,231,441 that the examiner refers to (column 3, line 54 - column 4, line 9) also does not contain anything that may be interpreted this way. In fact, in the example in 6,231,441 the evaluation is whether the move “traps” or borders an occupied area (column 4, lines 14-17).

(d.6) Of the elements listed above in (a.1), only element (4) is mentioned (in any way) by Golad 6,231,441, and there is nothing in 6,231,441 that could be interpreted as any of the elements (1), (2), (3) and (5). Therefore 6,231,441 clearly doesn’t anticipate Claim 1. The examiner reached his conclusion because he mis-represented 6,231,441 to have element (1) and (3) as shown above in (d.2) and (d.3), and ignored elements (2) and (5) altogether.

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(e.1) Rejection of Claim 1 as being unpatentable over Blumberg et al (5,417,425) in view of Othello (p.7): Of the elements that were listed above in (a.1), only element (4) appears in Othello, and none of the elements appear in Blumberg et al. Thus Blumberg et al in view Othello still does not present elements (1), (2), (3) and (5). As discussed above in paragraphs (a.2) - (a.4), these elements give a novel and non-obvious combination.

(e.2) The examiner gives the impression that Blumberg et al present these elements by attributing to Blumberg et al text that is actually from the current application. On p.8, line 3, the examiner writes:

“Blumberg does expressly disclose the following:

When a player touches a point, the games manager checks if it is a legal move, and if it is“

(indented paragraph continues for around half a page)

(e.3) All the indented paragraph is not taken from Blumberg et al at all. In fact it is simply the second half of Claim 1 of the current application. There is nothing in Blumberg et al that can be claimed to say what is said in this paragraph, by any stretch of imagination. Thus the examiner makes the current application obvious with respect to Blumberg et al by attributing to Blumberg et al the most innovative part of claim 1 of the current application. Without the false attribution, Blumberg et al in view of Othello is still very very far from the behaviour that is disclosed in Claim 1, because together they contain only element (4).

f) Informal Claim Objections: In the claims in the appendix, I removed italicization and added spaces between the lines and indentation. The text is identical to the previous version.

Yehouda Harpaz
Customer number: 33593

4 of 7 pages

8. *Appendix - Claims*

1 (original) An electronic board comprising:

a grid of grid points on a flat surface, where each grid point is a visible element which is capable of detecting when it is pressed, and can be illuminated in two different colours, allocated to respective players, by an illumination source inside or below the surface; and a character display ; and

a game manager made of

a CPU and memory, connected electronically to the grid points and illumination sources such that it has complete control on which grid point is illuminated and in what colour, and it is notified whenever any of the grid points is pressed, and a computer program which is executed by the CPU,

which manages a one or more games, of which at least one game is played according to these rules:

when a player touches a point, the games manager checks if it is a legal move, and if it is switches the point to the player's colour;

to evaluate if a point is a legal move, the games manager checks in turn each of a pre-defined set of imaginary straight lines emanating from the point, assigning a value of 0 to each of these lines that does not pass through an illuminated point, a value of 1 if the closest illuminated point that it passes through is illuminated with the colour of the player, and -1 if it is in the opponent's colour, and then compares the sum of the values of all the lines to a fixed number, and if the sum is larger or equal the point is a legal move for the player;

the games manager declares as winner the player that has more points of their colour in the end of the game.

9. Appendix - Evidence

Below is a copy of a terminal disclaimer with respect to Harpaz 6,568,683. There are no other relevant evidence.

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 Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number PTO/SB/26 (09-04) Approved for use through 07/31/2008. OMB 0651-0031 U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE (A) TERMINAL DISCLAIMER TO OBLVIAE A DOUBLE PATENTING REJECTION OVER A "PRIOR" PATENT		Docket Number (Optional)
In re Application of: Application No.: 10/031,776 Filed: 01/23/2002 For: Games Grid Board		
<p>The owner, <u>Yehouda HARPAZ</u>, of <u>100</u> percent interest in the instant application hereby disclaims, except as provided below, the terminal part of the statutory term of any patent granted on the instant application which would extend beyond the expiration date of the full statutory term prior patent No. <u>6,568,683</u> as the term of said prior patent is defined in 35 U.S.C. 154 and 173, and as the term of said prior patent is presently shortened by any terminal disclaimer. The owner hereby agrees that any patent so granted on the instant application shall be enforceable only for and during such period that it and the prior patent are commonly owned. This agreement runs with any patent granted on the instant application and is binding upon the grantee, its successors or assigns.</p> <p>In making the above disclaimer, the owner does not disclaim the terminal part of the term of any patent granted on the instant application that would extend to the expiration date of the full statutory term as defined in 35 U.S.C. 154 and 173 of the prior patent, "as the term of said prior patent is presently shortened by any terminal disclaimer," in the event that said prior patent later expires for failure to pay a maintenance fee;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is held unenforceable; is found invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction; is statutorily disclaimed in whole or terminally disclaimed under 37 CFR 1.321; has all claims canceled by a reexamination certificate; is disclaimed; or is in any manner terminated prior to the expiration of its full statutory term as presently shortened by any terminal disclaimer. <p>Check either box 1 or 2 below, if appropriate.</p> <p>1. <input type="checkbox"/> For submissions on behalf of a business organization (e.g., corporation, partnership, university, government agency, etc.), the undersigned is empowered to act on behalf of the business organization.</p> <p>I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that wilful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such wilful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.</p> <p>2. <input type="checkbox"/> The undersigned is an attorney or agent of record. Reg. No. _____</p> <p><u>Yehouda HARPAZ</u> <u>10/27/2005</u> <u>08/05/2005</u> <u>08/05/2005</u></p> <p>Signature _____ Date _____</p> <p>08/15/2005 10031776 01 FC:28.4 65.00 0P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Terminal disclaimer fee under 37 CFR 1.20(d) included.</p> <p>WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.</p> <p>*Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) is required if terminal disclaimer is signed by the assignee (owner). Form PTO/SB/60 may be used for making this certification. See MPEP § 324.</p> <p>This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.321. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to be (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.</p>		

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10. Appendix - Related proceedings

Not applicable.

Yehouda Harpaz

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26 Oct 2005

Re: Application No. 10/031,776 - supplementary appeal brief

1) *Party of interest:* Yehouda Harpaz (sole inventor).

2) *Related appeals and interferences:* There are no related appeals or interferences.

3) *Status of claims:* Claim 1 - Rejected.

Claims 2-7 - cancelled.

The appeal is against the rejection of Claim 1.

4) *Status of Amendments:* There are no amendments subsequent to final rejection.

5) *Summary of claimed subject matter:*

Claim 1: The means in Claim 1 is an electronic board which is played by touching points, with a novel behaviour. The behaviour is that, except playing in turns, the sole rule is that a point is a legal move if its 'visibility' for the player is above or equal to some fixed number. The 'visibility' of a point is determined by the board by checking in turn each of a predefined set of imaginary straight lines emanating from the point. If the line does not pass through any illuminated point, it is assigned a value of 0. Otherwise the line is assigned a value of 1 if the closest illuminated point that it passes through is illuminated in the colour of the player, or -1 if it is in the opponent's colour. The sum of the values of the lines is the 'visibility' of the point for the player. The game ends when neither of the players has a legal move, and the player with more points of his/her colour wins.

The board itself is described shortly in the first paragraph of page 2 (lines 1-18), and the conceptual structure of the board is shown in abstract in Figure 1. A more detailed description is given in page 5, lines 8-38, and Figure 2 gives more details of the construction of the board.

The behaviour of the board, which is the main novelty of the claim, is described shortly in page 2, second paragraph (lines 21-31). It is then discussed in length in the last three lines of page 3 and all of page 4. It is illustrated in Figures 4 and 5, but the text on page 4 must be consulted to understand the figures.

The function of the construction in Claim 1 is to produce a novel and innovative game that is simple to play but has a considerable strategic depth, and therefore is a very interesting game. This is discussed in the last paragraph page 5 (line 37-47). This game cannot be realistically played without the construction of claim 1.

6) *Grounds for rejection:*

Double patenting: Claim 1 was rejected under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-4 of U.S. Patent 6,568,683. This is discussed in section 7.b below.

Provisional Obvious type double patenting: Claim 1 was provisionally rejected under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over the claims of

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copending applications 10/031890 and 10/031942. This is discussed in section 7.c below.

Claim rejections - 35 USC 102: Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Golad 6,231,441. Discussed in 7.d below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC 103: Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blumberg et al. (5,417,425) in view of Othello (Shadow125 Java Applet). Discussed in 7.e below.

7) *Argument:*

(a) **Novelty and non-obviousness of Claim 1**

(a.1) As I wrote in (c.5) in the appeal brief, the idea that is expressed in lines 14-22 of Claim 1 of the current application (starting with "when a player touches a point..."), is a combination of the following elements:

- (1) Look at distant points beyond unilluminated points, rather than only illuminated neighbours.
- (2) Use the first illuminated point that is encountered to define the value for a direction (1 for player's colour, -1 for the other colour).
- (3) Sum the values in all directions, rather than just checking if any of the directions fulfils some condition.
- (4) Use the result to decide if a move is legal.
- (5) Use this evaluation as the sole determination of the behaviour of the board during the game, rather than make the evaluation just part of the rules of the game.

(a.2) Element (4) is the only element that can be found in the documents that were found by the ISR and the search in the USPTO, except my own applications. In my first application, (application GB 9907163.1) elements (3) and (4) appear, but not in a combination (they appear in separate games). Element (5) is completely new in the priority document of the current application (GB 9919551), and it is an important innovation, because with simple behaviour it generates a game with considerable strategic depth. It may be possible to dig out documents that show one of elements (1) (2) or (3) on its own, but I am not aware of such documents, and searches don't find them. I am sure that no combination of any two of elements (1)-(4) appears in any prior document. Thus even each element of (1),(2) or (3) on its own is not that obvious, combining any pair of elements (1)-(4) together is quite non-obvious, combining all of them together is very non-obvious, and combining them with element (5) is very very non-obvious.

(a.3) The combination of all these elements together generates a behaviour that is radically different from anything that have been published until now in any context, including all the documents that were cited by the examiner or in the international search report (excluding my other applications which may mention it, but has the same or later priority date). This is true not only in the context of electronic boards, but also video/computer games and classical games. This can be verified by scanning the catalogues of toys and games companies, for example:

<http://www.hasbro.com/games/>

or an online directory of board-games, for example:

http://directory.google.com/Top/Games/Board_Games/

<http://www.board-games-directory.com>

http://dmoz.org/Shopping/Toys_and_Games/Games/Board_Games/New/

(Note that the idea does appear in my domain, <http://maldo.com>)

(a.4) Hence the combination of the elements which are listed above in (a.1), as presented in

Claim 1, is novel and inventive over anything that has been published earlier.

(b) Double Patenting

(b.1) Rejection for double patenting with respect to Harpaz 6,568,683: To overcome the rejection, I have submitted a terminal disclaimer with respect to 6,568,683 (p. 6 of this brief). I explain here why I don't actually agree with the rejection anyway, but this can be ignored because of the terminal disclaimer.

(b.2) Harpaz 6,568,683 claims only elements (2) and (3) of the elements that are listed in (a.1) above. Therefore elements (1), (4) and (5) (the main novelty) are not claimed in 6,568,683, and hence the current application is novel and non-obvious over the claims of Harpaz 6,568,683.

(b.3) The examiner makes 6,568,683 looks closer to the current application by mis-representing what 6,568,683 says. In the last line of p.3 and first line of p.4 he says about 6,568,683:

“... the game manager checks for each point the illumination state of the point and of a pattern of points around to insure to insure appropriate movement of a player...

(b.4) The last part is simply wrong. The check in 6,568,683 is to decide what will be the state of the point in the next period of time, and it happens each short period of time, without any relation to any player's action (6,568,683, Claim 1, column 8, lines 12-16). As explained in 6,568,683 column 3, lines 53-58, this change each period of time (“generation”) is a major part of the innovation in 6,568,683.

(c) Provisional Obvious type double patenting

(c.1) Provisional rejections for double patenting with respect to the copending applications 10/031890 and 10/031942: Neither of 10/031890 nor 10/031942 claims *any* of the elements listed in (a.1) above. Therefore the current application is non-obvious over both of them. The examiner ignores these elements completely.

(d) Claim rejections - 35 USC 102

(d.1) Rejection of Claim 1 as being anticipated by Golad 6,231,441 (page 6): This rejection is done by attributing to Golad text that it does not contain, and ignoring some of the elements that were listed in (a.1).

(d.2) In his description of the board which is described in Golad 6,231,441, the examiner includes this statement (p.6, lines 3-5 from the bottom, my italics):

“... and a game manager evaluating legal moves by each player by *checking in turn each of a pre-defined set of imaginary straight lines emanating from the point* to evaluate a correct and incorrect move, ..”

(d.3) The part in italics is a mis-representation of Golad 6,231,441, because there is nothing in 6,231,441 that can be interpreted this way. This part is actually lifted, almost *verbatim*, from Claim 1 of the current application.

(d.4) The examiner explains this mis-representation in the following text (p.6, last two lines and p.7 top):

“.., in which the examiner interprets to be in the computer informing a player on a incorrect move by flashing the correct playing areas on the grid point in straight lines, which is equivalent to applicant's game manager evaluating legal or illegal moves by a player (column 3, line 54 - column 4, line 9).”

(d.5) I did not understand this explanation, and I don't think it is a coherent English text, but it clearly does not contain anything to do with “checking in turn each of a pre-defined set of imaginary straight lines”. The text in 6,231,441 that the examiner refers to (column 3, line 54 - column 4, line 9) also does not contain anything that may be interpreted this way. In fact, in the example in 6,231,441 the evaluation is whether the move “traps” or borders an occupied area (column 4, lines 14-17).

(d.6) Of the elements listed above in (a.1), only element (4) is mentioned (in any way) by Golad 6,231,441, and there is nothing in 6,231,441 that could be interpreted as any of the elements (1), (2), (3) and (5). Therefore 6,231,441 clearly doesn't anticipate Claim 1. The examiner reached his conclusion because he mis-represented 6,231,441 to have element (1) and (3) as shown above in (d.2) and (d.3), and ignored elements (2) and (5) altogether.

(e) Claim Rejections - 35 USC 103

(e.1) Rejection of Claim 1 as being unpatentable over Blumberg et al (5,417,425) in view of Othello (p.7): Of the elements that were listed above in (a.1), only element (4) appears in Othello, and none of the elements appear in Blumberg et al. Thus Blumberg et al in view Othello still does not present elements (1), (2), (3) and (5). As discussed above in paragraphs (a.2) - (a.4), these elements give a novel and non-obvious combination.

(e.2) The examiner gives the impression that Blumberg et al present these elements by attributing to Blumberg et al text that is actually from the current application. On p.8, line 3, the examiner writes:

“Blumberg does expressly disclose the following:

When a player touches a point, the games manager checks if it is a legal move, and if it is“

(indented paragraph continues for around half a page)

(e.3) All the indented paragraph is not taken from Blumberg et al at all. In fact it is simply the second half of Claim 1 of the current application. There is nothing in Blumberg et al that can be claimed to say what is said in this paragraph, by any stretch of imagination. Thus the examiner makes the current application obvious with respect to Blumberg et al by attributing to Blumberg et al the most innovative part of claim 1 of the current application. Without the false attribution, Blumberg et al in view of Othello is still very very far from the behaviour that is disclosed in Claim 1, because together they contain only element (4).

f) Informal Claim Objections: In the claims in the appendix, I removed italicization and added spaces between the lines and indentation. The text is identical to the previous version.

Yehouda Harpaz
Customer number: 33593

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8. Appendix - Claims

1 (original) An electronic board comprising:

a grid of grid points on a flat surface, where each grid point is a visible element which is capable of detecting when it is pressed, and can be illuminated in two different colours, allocated to respective players, by an illumination source inside or below the surface; and a character display ; and

a game manager made of

a CPU and memory, connected electronically to the grid points and illumination sources such that it has complete control on which grid point is illuminated and in what colour, and it is notified whenever any of the grid points is pressed, and a computer program which is executed by the CPU,

which manages a one or more games, of which at least one game is played according to these rules:

when a player touches a point, the games manager checks if it is a legal move, and if it is switches the point to the player's colour;

to evaluate if a point is a legal move, the games manager checks in turn each of a pre-defined set of imaginary straight lines emanating from the point, assigning a value of 0 to each of these lines that does not pass through an illuminated point, a value of 1 if the closest illuminated point that it passes through is illuminated with the colour of the player, and -1 if it is in the opponent's colour, and then compares the sum of the values of all the lines to a fixed number, and if the sum is larger or equal the point is a legal move for the player;

the games manager declares as winner the player that has more points of their colour in the end of the game.

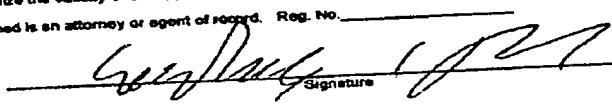
10. Appendix - Related proceedings

Not applicable.

9. Appendix - Evidence

Below is a copy of a terminal disclaimer with respect to Harpaz 6,568,683. There are no other relevant evidence.

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HEAD TERMINAL DISCLAIMER TO OBLVIAE A DOUBLE PATENTING REJECTION OVER A "PRIOR" PATENT		
In re Application of: Application No.: 10/031,776 Filed: 01/23/2002 For: Games Grid Board		
<p>The owner, <u>Yehouda HARPAZ</u>, the terminal part of the statutory term of any patent granted on the instant application hereby disclaims, except as provided below, the terminal part of the statutory term of any patent granted on the instant application which would extend beyond the expiration date of the full statutory term prior patent No. 6,568,683 as the term of said prior patent is defined in 35 U.S.C. 154 and 173, and as the term of said prior patent is presently shortened by any terminal disclaimer. The owner hereby agrees that any patent so granted on the instant application shall be enforceable only for and during such period that it and the prior patent are commonly owned. This agreement runs with any patent granted on the instant application and is binding upon the grantee, its successors or assigns.</p> <p>In making the above disclaimer, the owner does not disclaim the terminal part of the term of any patent granted on the instant application that would extend to the expiration date of the full statutory term as defined in 35 U.S.C. 154 and 173 of the prior patent, "as the term of said prior patent is presently shortened by any terminal disclaimer," in the event that said prior patent later expires for failure to pay a maintenance fee;</p> <p>is held unenforceable;</p> <p>is held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction;</p> <p>is statutorily disclaimed in whole or terminally disclaimed under 37 CFR 1.321;</p> <p>has all claims canceled by a reexamination certificate;</p> <p>is released; or</p> <p>is in any manner terminated prior to the expiration of its full statutory term as presently shortened by any terminal disclaimer.</p>		
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<p>I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that wilful false statements are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such wilful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.</p>		
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Yehouda HARPAZ <small>Typed or printed name</small>		
<small>+44 1223 513655</small> <small>Telephone Number</small>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Terminal disclaimer fee under 37 CFR 1.20(d) included.		
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<small>This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.201. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and sending the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22213-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22213-1450.</small>		
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